B.C. Hydro

Registered Trapline Program

Rights of Way

In Co-operation With

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Environment

BRITISH COLUMBIA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY

REGISTERED TRAPLINE PROGRAM

RIGHTS OF WAY

In Cooperation With

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of the Environment
Wildlife Branch

and

British Columbia Trappers Association

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1. Introduction

The Registered Trapline Program was introduced in January 1980 to redress negative impacts caused by B. C. Hydro major transmission and generation projects.

The objectives of the program are to provide a standard compensation policy that is fair and consistent to all registered trappers. The program compensates for harvest and trapline improvement losses caused by construction activities and provides incentives to improve the remaining portions of the registered trapline. The program contains measures to compensate trappers on an individual basis for losses related to trapping as a livelihood or business venture. These measures constitute the full entitlement of the participant.

The program should be considered separately and independently from any possible mitigation or compensation agreements made between B. C. Hydro and the Ministry of Environment for conceivable population or habitat loss to the furbearer resource resulting from Hydro's activities.

The program described here becomes effective once B. C. Hydro receives authorization to construct a right of way project. Separate programs dealing with feasibility and preliminary design studies and power generation projects are available to address impacts caused by these Hydro activities.

2. The Role of the Trapper

The trapper is the principal participant in this voluntary program. It is the trapper's responsibility to:

(a) Cooperate with B. C. Hydro and the Inspection Committee to ensure that the program properly address his circumstance.

(b) Participate actively in all phases of the program.

Should a trapper choose to not participate on the program a settlement for construction related losses only will be negotiated. This settlement will be based only on the compensation portion of this program.

3. The Role of B. C. Hydro

B. C. Hydro is responsible for the administration of the program. Specific duties include:

(a) Acquire and process data to calculate compensation payments including:

(i) map, classify and quantify habitats;
(ii) calculate the number of harvestable animals in the area of disruption;
(iii) calculate the appropriate compensation;
(iv) assess the value of all damaged or destroyed improvements.

(b) Assess, authorize and inspect all improvements to the trapline being claimed under the Improvement Component.

(c) Conduct investigations into any variances from the program by the trappers. The results of the investigations and Hydro's recommended action will be forwarded to the Inspection Committee for their review and endorsement.

4. The Role of the Inspection Committee

An Inspection Committee will be formed for each project and will include one representative each chosen by; the affected trappers, the B. C. Wildlife Branch and B. C. Hydro. The representatives, if

possible, will be local to the project area. The functions of the Committee are to:

(a) Conduct, if required, an aerial and ground survey of the trapline with the trapper and B. C. Hydro to inventory losses on the portion impacted as well as inventory potential trapping areas not presently being used.

(b) Review any activities of a trapper on the program which may be contrary to this agreement.

Approve and/or recommend appropriate action to correct such a situation.

(c) Arbitrate any unresolvable situations between Hydro and the trapper. Recommendations by the Inspection Committee if not accepted by both trapper and Hydro will be referred to the Consulting Committee for a final decision.

5. The Role of the Consulting Committee

A Consulting Committee has been established to oversee the implementation of the program. It is composed of one representative each from the B. C. Trappers Association, B. C. Wildlife Branch and B. C. Hydro. Their duties are to:

(a) Monitor the policies of the program.

(b) Review and rule on proposed changes to the program.

(c) Review and rule on appeals by trappers or Hydro on recommendations made by Inspection Committees.

(d) Review each case after the 3-year period to ensure the intention of this program has been carried out.

6. Right of Way Construction

The program is designed to compensate the trapper for construction related disturbances and losses and to provide financial assistance to make improvements to the unaffected area of the trapline.

The program will allow the trapper to develop or improve unaffected areas of the trapline and to assist in the management and utilization of the trapline such that he will be in at least as good a position after participating on the program as prior to Hydro's impacts.

6.1 Compensation Component

Compensation will be paid for losses resulting from construction activities. It pays for one year's loss of potential harvest and loss or damage to presently used improvements.

6.1.1 Loss of Harvest

The activities of B. C. Hydro during clearing of a right of way and/or construction of a transmission line occur over a number of years, however most of these activities do not occur during trapping season. The area of clearing is not considered large enough to permanently render the area unuseable by furbearers. However, the disturbance caused during clearing may reduce the rate of trapping success in the surrounding area. Compensation is paid for the loss of potential harvest in the area of impact for the one trapping season during right of way clearing.

Only previously trapped species will be compensated for because the disturbance to non-trapped species does not cause an impact to the trapper.

The trapper will receive a once only payment based on one year's loss of potential harvest from the area of impact on the registered trapline. The B. C. average pelt value for the last complete trapping season will be used as the value of the lost fur harvest. The formula's used are:

Total distance that the right of way crosses habitat of each species	÷	Distance per harvestable animal (from Table 1)	=	Potential harvest of species in area of impact
Potential harvest (from the above formula)	x	B. C. average pelt value by species	=	Compensation for species

The loss of potential harvest for any species will not exceed the trappers average annual harvest for that species for the last 10 years on the trapline. When a trapper has less than two years' tenure (two trapping seasons) potentially harvestable species will be estimated by B. C. Hydro and confirmed by the Inspection Committee based on the types of habitat impacted and the species trapped from adjacent traplines.

B. C. Hydro will calculate the quality and quantity of each habitat type by aerial and ground surveys.

Records of species previously trapped and the B. C. averages pelt value will be obtained from the B. C. Wildlife Branch or fur auction or sales receipts.

6.1.2 Loss of Improvements

The trapper will receive compensation for loss of or damage to trapline improvements. These include trapline cabins, trails, cubbies, trapboxes, traps, etc. Private land and property other than trapline improvements are not included in this program. Compensation for private property losses are negotiated under the B. C. Hydro land acquisition program.

B. C. Hydro will evaluate any loss or damage to the improvement and either pay for the loss or pay for the trapper to repair the damage based on the following rates:

(a) presently used cabins - $12.50 per square feet;

(b) trails, cubbies, trapboxes, etc. - $9.50 per hour of labour;

(c) traps - upon proof of loss reimbursement with new traps of equal value. Only the most humane of legally approved traps will be provided.

6.1.3 Trapline Inventory

If required, the trapper, the Inspection Committee and B. C. Hydro will conduct an aerial and ground survey of the whole trapline. An aircraft appropriate to the area will be supplied by B. C. Hydro for up to three hours. An inventory of losses on the portion impacted as well as an inventory of potential trapping areas and potential improvements will be made at this time.

B. C. Hydro will provide the trapper and the Inspection Committee with topographic maps of each trapline.

EXAMPLE - COMPENSATION

Scale 1:100,000

e.g. marten - habitat quality high = one marten per 1.4 miles

Transmission line crosses 7 miles of trapline, therefore the loss of potential harvest:

$$\frac{7}{1.4} = 5 \text{ marten}$$

B. C. average pelt value for marten = $55.00

5 x $55.00 = $275.00 (compensation for marten)

This method of calculation will be used for each previously trapped species.

A cabin will also be destroyed because of the clearing - 18 foot x 14 foot cabin = 252 square feet at $12.50 per square foot = $3150.00

6.2 Trapline Improvement Component

Right of way clearing can affect the long term potential of an area to produce fur. Changes in habitat, disruption to trapping activities, increased public access and increased conflicts with other user groups are some of the effects.

B. C. Hydro, through the Improvement Component, will assist the trapper in improving other areas of the trapline to offset these impacts. The intent is to have the trapper in at least as good a position after utilizing the program as prior to the right of way clearing.

A maximum of $5000.00 will be available for improvements such as cutting trails, building caches, building permanent cubbies, building cabins, improving habitat (part of Section XV of Canadian Trappers' Manual) and under special circumstances purchasing transportation equipment.

Money will be made available only based on proven need as determined by B. C. Hydro and will not automatically be available for every affected trapline. The trapper must receive the approval of B. C. Hydro before any work is started. Improvements will be inspected by B. C. Hydro prior to any payments. Labour payments will be made at a rate of $9.50 per hour.

Cabins built in excess of the number destroyed through construction of the right of way and paid for in the compensation component may be claimed. The trapper must first prove need and obtain approval from B. C. Hydro before starting construction. The trapper must obtain proper tenure prior to construction. The trapper must also obtain a permit from the Ministry of Forests if he intends to cut trees to build a log cabin.

The completed cabin will be inspected by B. C. Hydro and paid for at $12.50 per square foot.

Where the purchase of transportation equipment is the only improvement that will allow the program to meet its objectives it will be considered. B. C. Hydro will determine when the purchase of transportation equipment is valid. All terrain vehicles (excluding automobiles) boats, canoes and/or motors are included. Only one will be allowed for each trapline. B. C. Hydro will not be responsible for any malfunctions, repairs, damages or injuries caused by these items.

The equipment reimbursement value is limited to 75% of the purchase price to a maximum of 50% of the improvement fund ($2500).

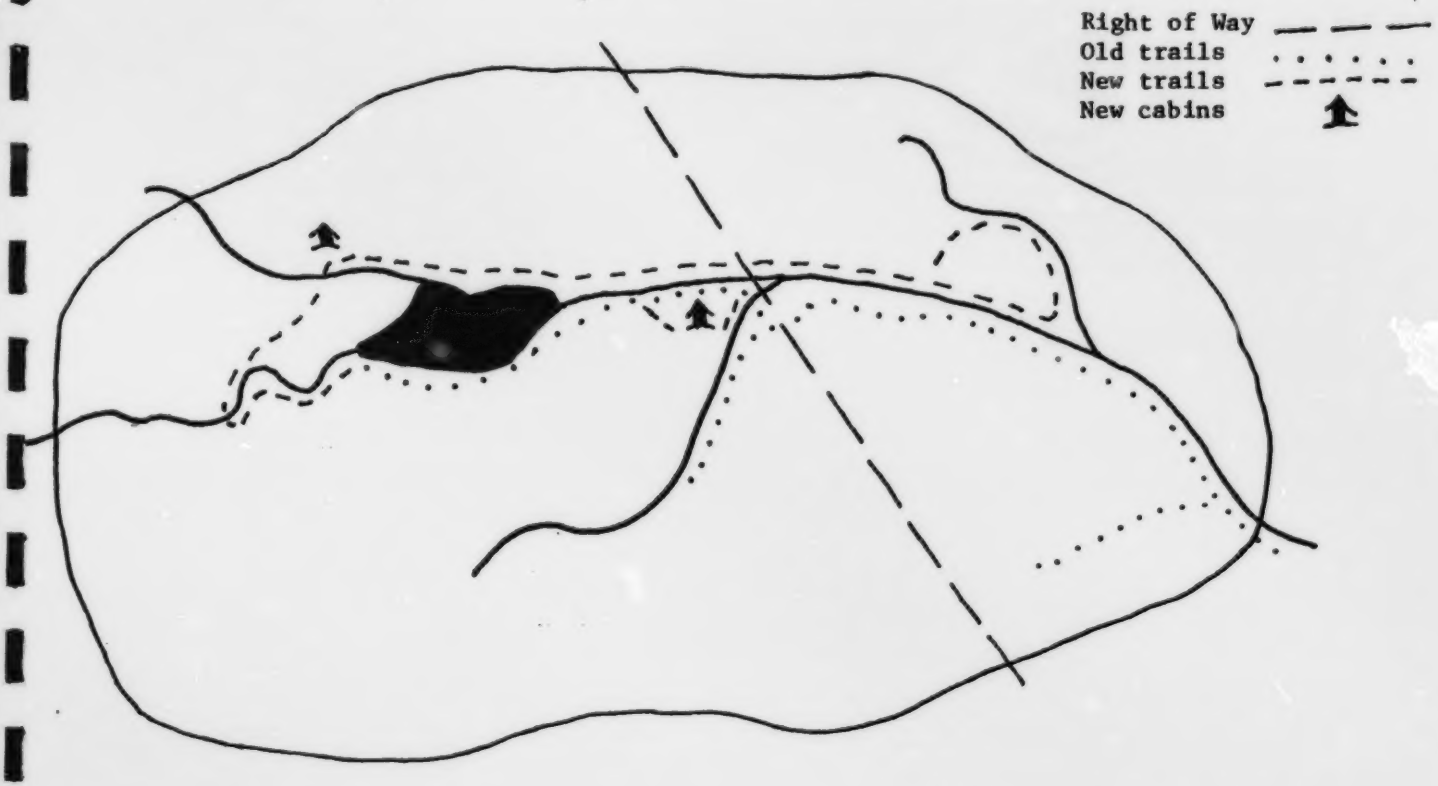
All transportation equipment purchased and reimbursed in part by B. C. Hydro will show the trapper as the owner, with B. C. Hydro as the chattel mortgagee to the extent of its investment. The sale and mortgage documents will be registered in the appropriate registries in Victoria. B. C. Hydro shall discharge the mortgage when the agreement lapses, i.e. three years.

Equipment purchased through the program may not be sold for three years. Equipment may be traded only if the new equipment is for use on the trapline. Approval from B. C. Hydro must be received prior to any transactions.

All improvements must be complete and reimbursements claimed for within the three-year duration of the program.

EXAMPLE - IMPROVEMENT (Maximum $5000.00)

The trapper has received approval from B. C. Hydro to construct two new cabins and some trails into an area of his trapline that is presently unused. After receiving proper tenure the trapper built the cabins.



Cabins - Since one cabin was destroyed during the clearing and already paid for, only one cabin can be claimed for payment under the Improvement Component.

16 foot x 16 foot cabin = 256 square feet at $12.50 per square foot	$3,200.00
New Trails - 120 hours of labour at $9.50 per hour	$1,140.00
Build trapboxes - 60 hours of labour at $9.50 per hour	$ 570.00
Total	$4,910.00

7. Multiple Impacts

When a generation project and a right of way occur on a trapline within the same time frame of a trapper being on this program, the trapper will be eligible for compensation and incentive payments for the total area of impact. The Improvement Component will be limited to the Power Generation Projects allotment of $7500.

Should two or more rights of way occur on a trapline within the same time frame of a trapper being on this program, the trapper will be entitled to compensation for the total impacts. B. C. Hydro will decide on the amount of money to be made available under the Improvement Component.

If a trapper has previously been on either the Power Generation Projects or Rights of Way program he will be eligible to participate on the program again, however B. C. Hydro will determine the amount of money to be made available in the Improvement Component.

8. Impact Assessment

The furbearers have been grouped based on their normal habitat use patterns. Habitat assessment allows B. C. Hydro to estimate the potential use and the level of impact.

Habitat Type	Species	Preferred Habitat*
Aquatic	Beaver	ponds, lakes, rivers or streams surrounded by deciduous vegetation
	Muskrat	ponds, lakes or meadows with plentiful aquatic vegetation
	Mink	waterways with aquatic animals (crayfish, etc.) and fish
	Otter	waterways with fish
Seral	Fox	grasslands, shrub lands, deciduous and mixed forests
	Coyote	grasslands, meadows, deciduous and mixed forests, rural areas
	Wolf	grasslands, meadows, deciduous, mixed and coniferous forests - rural and wilderness areas
	Bobcat	lower elevation grasslands, mixed and deciduous forests
	Lynx	meadows, deciduous and mixed forests (snow-shoe hare areas)
	Weasel	riparian areas, grasslands, meadows, deciduous and mixed forests
	Skunk	riparian areas, shrublands, grasslands and mixed forests
	Raccoon	riparian areas, deciduous, coniferous and mixed forests
	Black Bear	riparian areas, deciduous, coniferous and mixed forests
Climax	Red Squirrel	older mixed forests and coniferous forests
	Pine Marten	mature coniferous forests
	Fisher	older mixed forests
	Wolverine	riparian areas, mixed forests, coniferous forests and subalpine - wilderness areas

* Preferred habitat is that where a species occurs most frequently. All animals may use or travel through other habitat types from time to time.

Habitats are classified using aerial photographs, aerial and ground surveys. The quality of the area is rated on a provincial basis. For example high quality lynx habitat would be equivalent to that found in the Peace River area. The number of animals that can be harvested is calculated using Table 1. These densities are provincial averages. B. C. Hydro will calculate the harvest loss for each species that previously used the habitat cleared for the right of way.

The Inspection Committee will arbitrate any unresolveable disagreements between the trapper and B. C. Hydro.

9. Conditions of Participation

Participation in the program is voluntary. Each trapper participating in the program must agree to and accept the following conditions:

(a) Decisions made by the Consulting Committee are binding on all parties.

(b) There is a three-year time limit on the program.

(c) There are definite financial limits in the Improvement Component.

(d) The trapper will guarantee full and honest cooperation and participation.

(e) The trapper will grant B. C. Hydro permission to gain access to all pertinent records associated with the trapline and trapping activity.

(f) The trapper will permit and cooperate in the inspection of his trapline and the improvements for the duration of the program.

(g) Should the trapper intentionally or otherwise misrepresent any information or defraud B. C. Hydro, the trapper will be removed from the program and all monies received will be refunded to B. C. Hydro.

10. Transfer of Trapline Rights

In the event of the cessation of trapping by an active trapper compensation will be paid on the following basis:

(a) Where a discontinuance occurs during the period between impacts occurring to the trapline and receiving the compensation, the trapper or his estate will receive a lump sum payment equivalent to the total compensation as calculated under the Compensation Component. No improvement payments will be made.

(b) Where a discontinuance occurs following the receipt of the compensation and any portion of the Improvement Component, no additional improvement payments will be paid.

The program will be terminated if and when the original participant relinquishes tenancy of the trapline to anyone other than a relative or an active assistant.

If transportation equipment was purchased through the program and the trapline is sold within three years of the purchase the monies paid by B. C. Hydro for the equipment will be reimbursed in full within 30 days of the date of sale. Otherwise B. C. Hydro will exercise their chattel mortgage rights to repossess the equipment.

11. Multiple Registered Traplines (Partnerships, Family Lines, Band Lines, etc.)

Where a multiple registered trapline is affected B. C. Hydro will pay compensation to all active trappers equivalent to their interest in the trapline. The trappers must provide B. C. Hydro with a list of those eligible to receive compensation and the percentage that each is entitled to. No new trappers will be added to the original list submitted at the start of the program. Payments will be based on the program. Proof of harvest must be substantiated with receipts except where the trapline has been held for less than two years. If the trapper has less than two years tenure the potential harvest will be determined using Table 1.

Trapline improvement payments will be made only to those trappers named on the original list. The trappers will designate the percentage of the Improvement Component payment each individual is to receive prior to undertaking any improvement activities.

In the event of the cessation of trapping by any of the entitled trappers, compensation will be paid as outlined in Section 9. That percentage of compensation allocated to the trapper that ceased trapping will not be allocated to any other trapper, nor will the percentage be adjusted for the remaining trappers. The improvement payment limits will remain the same.

12. Review

The Consulting Committee will review each case at the end of the three-year program to ensure that the intent of the program has been met.

TABLE 1

REASONABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA FURBEARERS

AQUATIC HABITAT QUALITY

Species	Low	Medium	High
Beaver	0.50 per lodge	0.75 per lodge	1.50 per lodge
Muskrat - Interior	0.50 per pushup	0.75 per pushup	1.50 per pushup
Muskrat - Coastal	0.75 per pushup	1.50 per pushup	2.00 per pushup
Mink	1 per 5.0 miles of waterway	1 per 1.7 miles of waterway	1 per 1.0 mile of waterway
Otter	1 per 12.5 miles of waterway	1 per 6.3 miles of waterway	1 per 4.2 miles of waterway

NOTES:

1. The trapper should survey his trapline to determine the number of active lodges. Harvests can be calculated by multiplying the harvest level figure for the area (high, medium or low) times the number of lodges.

2. Lodges being trapped for the first time should be trapped carefully to avoid overtrapping. By gradually (2 - 3 years) increasing trapping pressure to the maximum calculated from the above densities the beaver will increase their birthrate.

3. Trapping muskrats can improve productivity and general health of the population.

TABLE 1

REASONABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA FURBEARERS

SERAL HABITAT QUALITY

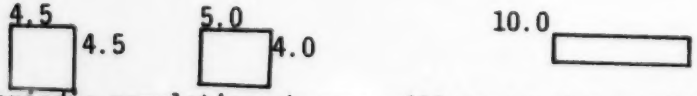
Species	Low One Animal Per	Medium One Animal Per	High One Animal Per
Fox	200 square miles (14.1 miles x 14.1 miles)	10 square miles (3.2 miles x 3.2 miles)	6.5 square miles (2.5 miles x 2.5 miles)
Coyote	40 square miles (6.3 miles x 6.3 miles)	12.5 square miles (3.5 miles x 3.5 miles)	7 square miles (2.6 miles x 2.6 miles)
Wolf	1000 square miles (31.6 miles x 31.6 miles)	170 square miles (13 miles x 13 miles)	40 square miles (6.3 miles x 6.3 miles)
Bobcat	170 square miles (13 miles x 13 miles)	55 square miles (7.5 miles x 7.5 miles)	16 square miles (4 miles x 4 miles)
Lynx - High	50 square miles (7.1 miles x 7.1 miles)	20 square miles (4.5 miles x 4.5 miles)	8 square miles (2.8 miles x 2.8 miles)
- Low	125 square miles (11.2 miles x 11.2 miles)	40 square miles (6.3 miles x 6.3 miles)	20 square miles (4.5 miles x 4.5 miles)
Raccoon	12.5 square miles (3.5 miles x 3.5 miles)	4 square miles (2 miles x 2 miles)	2 square miles (1.4 miles x 1.4 miles)

Species	Low One Animal Per	Medium One Animal Per	High One Animal Per
Weasel	20 square miles (4.5 miles x 4.5 miles)	5 square miles (2.2 miles x 2.2 miles)	2.5 square miles (1.6 miles x 1.6 miles)
Skunk	625 square miles (25 miles x 25 miles)	256 square miles (16 miles x 16 miles)	128 square miles (11.3 miles x 11.3 miles)
Black Bear	100 square miles (10 miles x 10 miles)	20 square miles (4.5 miles x 4.5 miles)	5 square miles (2.2 miles x 2.2 miles)

NOTES:

1. A trapper can harvest at these levels each year without overtrapping the species.

2. The areas for each species are expressed in two ways; the square area and the length of the sides of the square area. Wildlife habitat rarely comes in squares, therefore the square area can be expressed several ways, any of which may be more appropriate for your trapline. For example, lynx in the high part of the cycle in medium habitat.



these all equal 20 square miles

3. Periodic population changes will occur that would allow greater or lesser harvest levels than expected. However, trappers must resist the urge to trap more than the numbers indicate especially for the low reproductive species. Although tracks may indicate there are plentiful numbers remaining on the trapline these animals should be left for breeding stock.

TABLE 1

REASONABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA FURBEARERS

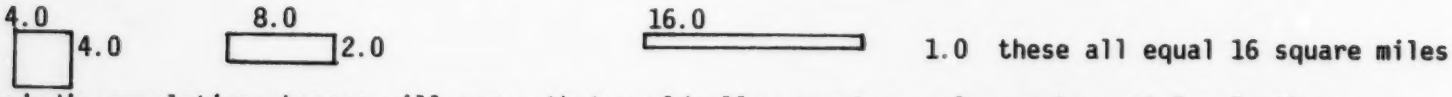
CLIMAX HABITAT QUALITY

Species	Low One Animal Per	Medium One Animal Per	High One Animal Per
Red Squirrel	4 square miles (2 miles x 2 miles)	0.5 square miles (0.7 miles x 0.7 miles)	0.25 square miles (0.5 miles x 0.5 miles)
Pine Marten	8 square miles (2.8 miles x 2.8 miles)	4 square miles (2 miles x 2 miles)	2 square miles (1.4 miles x 1.4 miles)
Fisher	70 square miles (8.4 miles x 8.4 miles)	25 square miles (5 miles x 5 miles)	16 square miles (4 miles x 4 miles)
Wolverine	256 square miles (16 miles x 16 miles)	125 square miles (11.2 miles x 11.2 miles)	50 square miles (7.0 miles x 7.0 miles)

NOTES:

1. A trapper can harvest at these levels each year without overtrapping the species.

2. The areas for each species are expressed in two ways; the square area and the length of the sides of the square area. Wildlife habitat rarely comes in squares, therefore the square area can be expressed several ways, any of which may be more appropriate for your trapline. For example, fisher in high habitat.



3. Periodic population changes will occur that would allow greater or lesser harvest levels than expected. However, trappers must resist the urge to trap more than the numbers indicate especially for the low reproductive species. Although tracks may indicate there are plentiful numbers remaining on the trapline these animals should be left for breeding stock.